

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Teresa Quintana, and I am a resident of Manchester. I am an immigrant.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to all legal children; we need to open up access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

Being an immigrant is not an easy task, for many years you need to avoid going to the doctor because that is an increment in your budget. A lot of the time, you have to choose between your rent or your health. Having health insurance is necessary for my community, and public charge is a nightmare that we all have to consider with dread before we ask for help. The prices at hospitals and laboratories are outrageously expensive for something that is a human right and not a source of profit. Not having Health insurance in our community causes desperation, anxiety and economic distress to families. As immigrants we have to cross many barriers, and one of them is the restrictions on health insurance. We have been working and dying during the pandemic because of a lack of health insurance, but when the community needs immigrants as essential workers our status no longer matters. My community's struggles were mine, they never went away. As Martin Luther King said "It is wrong to use corrupt means to attain moral ends....it is just as wrong...to use moral means to preserve immoral ends."

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

*Teresa Quintana
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